

ACT I

SCENE 4

DANIELLE

There's one thing I don't understand.

ADRAMELECH

(Mumbles)

Just one?

DANIELLE

Like, I get why it's good for me to be a demon. But it sounds like you have a pretty sweet gig. I don't get what's in it for you. My life, it's not all that great.

ADRAMELECH

(Quietly)

Not with you running the show.

DANIELLE

Huh?

ADRAMELECH

Would you believe I'm doing it out of the graciousness of my heart?

DANIELLE

Do you have a heart?

ADRAMELECH

Well, no.

DANIELLE

So, what then?

ADRAMELECH

It's a little embarrassing.

DANIELLE

Are you sure you're a demon? Honestly, drama, you're kind of a wuss sometimes. It's a real turn-off.

ADRAMELECH

Ok, well...

(ADRAMELECH walks over to the edge of the stage. She grabs a stool and sits on it, a DEMON comes from off stage to hand her a drink. She's facing the audience now. There's a spotlight)

ADRAMELECH (Continued)

You have to imagine hell. I mean, Hell is, well, hell.

(Beat)

For me, hell is eternity. I dress the Devil for success, and it's a living, and there are days where I really love it.

(Beat)

But it's the same job. Every day the same. For 100, and 1,000, and 10,000, for 100,000 years and more, there's no exit plan for a demon like me. No retirement or RRSP. Just more of the same. I'm not being punished, but I'm still in hell. And nobody appreciates the work I do. "Queer eye for the Evil guy." They actually call me that. It goes on, too. "The Prince of Laundry."

(Beat)

It's endless. I mean, literally endless. And I'm tired. I'm so tired of this old life. I think I could make it in the world, in the city. I think to myself, I'm in hell, and I'm organizing Satan's closet, and I think "Those rich women, they're begging for it, paying for it. So I'm gonna cash in on some of that. Hell, what do I got to stay around here for? I got places to go. I got dreams."

(ADREMELECH gets up, leaving the drink and stool. A DEMON takes them away)

ADRAMELECH (Continued)

So, yeah. I mean. I've seen so much life, and been responsible for so much death, I just want to try it from the other side. I guess I just want to try living. Can you understand that?

DANIELLE

I guess. I mean, I never would've thought that a demon might want a different life, but it makes sense.

ADRAMELECH

Yeah, so that's why I need your help.

DANIELLE

So, what about the exorcism? What about my Mom?

ADRAMELECH

Well, there's a lot to do. They've finished the litany of the saints. That's the easy part. There's more praying. Then the actual exorcism.

DANIELLE

And how long will that take?

ADRAMELECH

It takes as long as it takes. They keep repeating the phrases until the demon, until I'm expelled. It can go for hours.

DANIELLE

So we need to...

ADRAMELECH

We need to stop them. To stop the exorcism

DANIELLE

And my Mom?

ADRAMELECH

You just play your part. I have to go arrange a few things. I won't be gone long. Don't let them start without me.

(ADRAMELECH exits through the mirror. There's a flashing light. DANIELLE shudders)

DANIELLE

Drama?

(Long pause. GRACE enters)

GRACE

Danni, honey, are you... are you, you?

DANIELLE

For now, Mom. Yeah. I'm me.

GRACE

I'm sorry about before, with Father Francis. That was... well, that was...

DANIELLE

It was the demon... I mean, I felt it, but I know it was the demon. It wasn't me Mom. You have to know it wasn't me.

GRACE

Danni. I. We, me and the congregation, we all spoke. Father Francis is downstairs right now. He's praying for forgiveness. I've forgiven him, we all have. We need to keep going, Danni. You need to hold on.

DANIELLE

The demon, Mom. It's going to get worse before it gets better. He said he'll kill me.

GRACE

Oh Danni, no... you just, you have to have faith.

DANIELLE

(Crying)

She said the exorcism isn't going to work. That it's already too late. That Father Francis can't save me. That he won't save me.

GRACE

Danielle, you have to believe, you have to believe that Jesus can save you. That God can save you. You have to let them into your heart.

DANIELLE

Mom. I...I don't know how Mom. She's so loud. She's always confusing me. There's all this noise in my head. I'm so scared. I'm terrified.

GRACE

You can't give up, Danni, You don't give up and I won't give up on you!

DANIELLE

Mom?

GRACE

Danielle?

DANIELLE

Mom? He's back! Mom?! MOM!

GRACE

Danielle!

(DANIELLE starts acting possessed. GRACE exits quickly. As the door closes, DANIELLE calms down. She opens one eye a crack. Lights up on ADRAMELECH, who peers through the mirror before walking through.)

ADRAMELECH

That was really something.

DANIELLE

Think she bought it?

ADRAMELECH

An Oscar-worthy performance if I've ever seen one.

DANIELLE

So now what?

ADRAMELECH

Well, there's one last thing. A formality.

DANIELLE

What's that?

ADRAMELECH

It's silly, really. It's your soul.

DANIELLE

What about it?

ADRAMELECH

You still have it. You could still repent.

DANIELLE

I wouldn't!

ADRAMELECH

But you could. And, well, the powers that be, they just need to be sure. It's all been arranged. So we just need you to...

DANIELLE

What? Anything!

ADRAMELECH

Sign your life and soul away. For eternity. You need to give yourself entirely to me, body and soul.

DANIELLE

Sign? How do I?

ADRAMELECH

Just say it. I can't ask for it. It has to be given.

DANIELLE

(Pause)

Fine. If that's what it takes.

(Beat)

I give it to you. Everything I am. Body and soul.

ADRAMELECH

Excellent.

(DANIELLE seizes, her body convulses,
the bed shakes. Lights flash. Blackout)